(b) The proposal was found acceptable by TAC subject to the project proponent obtaining necessary approvals from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the State Finance Department.

(c) Site clearance from environmental angle has been given on 20th November, 2002.

Formation of Eco-Battalion

2412. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government has proposed to the Centre for formation of an eco-battalion; if so, the details of the proposal;

(b) whether such eco-taskforce has already been set up in other States; if so, the names of the States and the kind of projects entrusted to this taskforce; and

(c) whether expenditure on such projects is shared by the Centre with the States; if so, the proportion thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Govt. of Orissa has identified plantation works over 729.31 hectares of degraded forest land in Jagannath Prasad Demarcated Protected Forest under Chandaka Wild Life Division, Bhubaneshwar by engaging the proposed Eco-Taskforce.

(b) and (c) Eco-taskforces are at present operating in the States of Uttaranchal, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir to undertake restoration of degraded ecosystems through afforestation. The entire expenditure on these forces is met by the Central Government.

Hunting of Siberian Crane in Azamgarh

†2413. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Siberian Cranes, the guest migratory birds are being hunted illegally, in connivance with officials/employees of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.